

## HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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CHARLES S. CRANE, Manager.

FRIDAY : : : : : DECEMBER 25

## SOME DISTURBING REPORTS

Most disturbing rumors are in circulation regarding the plans for the city government to be recommended in the inaugural address of Mayor-elect Lane, which, for the sake of Mr. Lane and the party he heads in this county, we hope are to be proven unfounded.

One retrograde movement is said to be a plan whereby the municipal waterworks department is to be segregated from the department of the city engineer and established as an independent branch of the administration. This plan, if carried out, would be a long step backwards. One of the admirable things done by the present Democratic administration was the centralization of the waterworks, roads and engineer's departments under the one head and management, realizing that the departments must be together if good results are to obtain. One of the most potent arguments advanced why the waterworks should be turned over to the city was that under the one control it would be possible to coordinate the work of laying, repairing and extending the mains with the street laying and repairing work.

The worst rumored move, however, is to do away with the supervision of the engineering department over road construction. The new plan, according to what can be heard and what is generally believed now to be the idea of Mayor Lane and his colleagues, is to place upon the road committee of the board the active duties of planning and building the roads, with that committee in full charge and control so far as the hiring and discharging of road employees is concerned.

Such a change for the worse would render street conditions less bearable than under the present most unsatisfactory system and would not only perpetuate but aggravate every fault against which the voters have expressed their disapproval at the polls for the last three elections. The political system of wasting public money in road building must stop, the proposed elimination of all trained supervision over the actual work of road building and the assumption of that supervision by certain untrained members of the board would not stop it but would only intensify the already bad condition and make the present deplorable state of the roads desperate.

Included in the rumored decision to segregate the waterworks department is the statement that it is to be placed under the control of a wholly inexperienced person, who not only has no knowledge of the maintenance and upkeep of a waterworks system but has no technical training whatever to build upon. The making of such an appointment as is reported to be under consideration by Mayor-elect Lane would be to cap the climax of the folly which runs through the entire program.

The management of so extensive a concern as the Honolulu waterworks requires technical skill and a wide range of general knowledge. The superintendent must be able to do something beside making new connections and collect the semi-annual charges. The waterworks system of a rapidly growing city like Honolulu needs a superintendent able to devise the means for very considerable extensions within a comparatively short time, and for a renewal of much of the system within an even shorter time, and with engineering knowledge sufficient to solve the problem how the water supply may be augmented to meet the growing demand.

The health of every man, woman and child in the city is directly dependent upon the proper upkeep of the waterworks system, and it appears inconceivable that Mr. Lane should ever consider making the superintendency of the department a political berth. Yet that is the very thing that rumor alleges.

We trust that the newly elected officials are being ill-treated by these street reports. The Advertiser, in common with nine-tenths of the community, is looking forward to the pronouncement of Mr. Lane on taking office with a degree of apprehension, however, afraid that some part of the repeated street talk may be proven well founded. If such should be the case, we will learn the truth with the keenest regret.

This community was promised efficiency and economy by the Republican candidates and elected them on the strength of that promise. The schemes outlined above are certainly not in the interest of economy, and they are the antithesis of efficiency. If it should be that our new officials, or a majority of them, are actually proposing anything such as above, it is not too late for them to consult with the men of experience in public works, public finance and public health and learn how far from progressive the schemes are and how very far from popular they would be.

## THE NAVY COALING PLANT AT PEARL HARBOR

The news that the final stage in the establishment of the navy coaling plant at Pearl Harbor has been entered upon, published in The Advertiser this morning, is a welcome Christmas present to Honolulu.

An additional item of interest is the fact that the storing of the coal is being done in a manner which, while not entirely new, is new on so large a scale as is being carried out at Pearl Harbor.

A reinforced concrete tank, twenty feet high and covering approximately seven acres, is enough in itself to stamp the enterprise as a gigantic one.

Taken together with the mechanical handling plant for elevating the coal from ship to storage and from storage back to the war vessels as they require the same, makes this enterprise a remarkable feature in the industrial as well as in the naval world.

Both Hawaii and the navy department are to be congratulated that within the same month the completion of this great coaling plant at Pearl Harbor has been begun, and that work on the biggest drydock in the United States has been resumed.

## THE SAILORS OF THE GEIER

It is said that somebody is objecting to the sailors of the interned German warship Geier having shore liberty.

If this be so there is "somebody" in Honolulu who has a soul the size of a peanut, and a mighty small peanut at that.

The sailors on the Geier are a lot of clean cut young gentlemen. They have committed no wrong. By the fortune of war they are our guests for the term of the present conflict.

There is no reason why they should be treated in any other manner than as guests, subject only to their staying here for the term which will be decided by their own government and the Allies.

Go away back and sit down Mr. "Somebody," and try and think of something pleasant during this Christmas season.

## THE ADVERTISER AND THE NEW BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A citizen remarked yesterday that "The Advertiser was after the new mayor and board of supervisors."

The remark is right and it is wrong.

It is wrong if the meaning is that The Advertiser proposes to find fault with the gentlemen regardless of what they do.

It is wrong if the meaning is that The Advertiser seeks to boss the job, or secure the appointment of any man or men. The Advertiser has no candidates for any government job.

The remark is right if the meaning is that The Advertiser wants the board to do what is best for the public, for that will be also doing the best thing for themselves, and that also is what we want.

The Advertiser worked for the election of the incoming mayor and supervisors. It believes that they honestly want to make a good record—a record which will be a credit to themselves and which they and their friends will be proud of.

The Advertiser wants to help them make such a record.

It offers to the gentlemen suggestions which, if adopted, it believes will make such a record.

If there is a tone of criticism in any of the suggestions, it is a friendly criticism only that is intended; not a censorious one. It is based solely on the fear that the mayor and board may do something which will make it less easy for them to make the record which both they and The Advertiser want made.

The fact is too plain for argument that positions like that of the control of the waterworks, the sewers and the roads should be occupied by competent, experienced engineers. It is engineering work that has been bungled in the past. It needs the best talent to straighten it out now.

It is credibly reported that the mayor intends to nominate men who are not engineers and who are not experienced in this kind of work; but are experienced in politics.

It may not be true that the mayor intends to do this. We hope that it is not.

If it be true that he has this matter under consideration, we urge that he make it a matter of principle to put efficiency first and politics second. Thus will he best serve the public, and in so serving the public will he best make the record which he seeks and which The Advertiser will be glad to help him make.

## THE NEW TYPE OF TRUANT OFFICER

The old idea of the truant officer as a "kid cop" is passing away, according to W. S. Deffenbaugh, of the United States Bureau of Education, who has recently been in conference with attendance officials from all parts of the United States. The new truant officer, according to Mr. Deffenbaugh, is a man of entirely different type, quite frequently, in fact, a woman. In several cities a large percentage of truant officers are college graduates; in other cities they are men and women with experience as social workers; but whether college graduates or not, they are required to know and understand the home conditions of school children.

Attendance officers of the new type are interested in removing fundamental causes of truancy rather than in merely catching the offenders. The chief cause of the failure to obey attendance laws, according to the national league of compulsory education officials, is inadequate family life. Resolutions adopted at the recent meeting of this organization, therefore, called for "adequate and uniform marriage and divorce laws for the protection of childhood; enactment and enforcement of laws pertaining to the issuance of marriage licenses that will prevent child marriages and prohibit the marriage of persons physically, morally, and mentally unfit to wed." They urge that the juvenile courts be given definite authority to place parents, as well as children, on probation for truancy and delinquency; they ask better State supervision of dependent children; civil service for all truant officers; and the maintenance of parental schools, special rooms for truant and incorrigibles, and health inspection of schools as material factors in child welfare.

The attendance officer of the new type is to be a far better trained man or woman and is to receive better pay. Superintendents of some of the largest school systems in the United States joined in advocating a minimum salary of \$100 per month, with service twelve months in the year, in order that the officers may be in constant touch with the home conditions of the boys and girls.

The United States Bureau of Education has agreed to cooperate with the league of compulsory school attendance officials in the collection of statistics bearing on attendance problems. As part of the movement for better attendance, it has been urged that a permanent census bureau be established and maintained in every city in the United States.

## THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY

Peace on earth, good will toward men.

This day, the anniversary of the Christ Child, the snows of a score of battlefields are reddened with the blood of men slain in anger and dotted over with the mutilated bodies of the killed and the writhing forms of the wounded.

This day the blood lust of nations overwhelms the brotherly love that the Son of Man brought into the world and daily the hate of man toward man increases, until the whole world is tainted.

Yet from the reek and the groans of the battlefield will come good. This must be believed—otherwise there would be small ground for today's rejoicings. One must look through the murk with the eyes of faith and watch for the sunrise beyond.

Peace on earth, good will toward men.

## COAL CONVEYOR AND STORAGE TANK AT PEARL HARBOR NOW UNDER WAY

Several months ago the contract for the erection of the steel work for the coal conveyor and storage tank of the naval station at Pearl Harbor was let to the Honolulu Planning Mill.

Under the terms of the contract the government supplies the material and the contractor erects it. The contract price is \$55,000.

All of the steel has now arrived and been landed at the proposed coaling station and the contractor has this week begun the work of erecting the same.

Experts Will Do Work  
The erection of the steel work requires experts, who could not be obtained here, and the contractor has therefore secured six expert steel construction men from San Francisco, who arrived this week. The contractor's foreman in charge of the work will be Mr. Wood, recently foreman of the steel bridge erection gang on the Hilo Railroad.

Erection of the elevator and carrier has already begun, and by Monday next the work will be in full swing. Erection of the steel for the reinforced concrete storage tank will be begun soon and carried on simultaneously.

John Lucas, manager of the Honolulu

Planning Mill, stated yesterday that he had arranged to press the work to a speedy conclusion. He estimates that it will take less than six months to complete the job.

Storing Coal Under Water  
The plan of storing coal under water is one that has been practiced for the past ten years, but only on a limited scale, and this plant being erected by the United States navy department is the largest ever built. It consists of a reinforced concrete tank, situated entirely above ground, some twenty feet in height and covering an area of approximately seven acres. It will have a capacity of over 100,000 tons of coal.

The object of storing coal under water is to prevent disintegration of the coal and the evaporation of the valuable fuel elements. Soft coal stored in the open air, especially for a long time, disintegrates and, loses efficiency; whereas if it is stored under water it disintegrates practically not at all.

The plant now being erected at Pearl Harbor was designed by Lieutenant Samuel Gayler and the erection is being carried on under the supervision of Lieutenant Ernest R. Gordon of the navy.

## The Shepherd's Wondrous Tale

From the Spanish of GONGORA.

IT WAS the very noon of night, the stars above the fold,  
More sure than clock or chiming bell, the hour of mid-night told:

When from the heavens there came a voice, and forms were seen to shine,  
Still bright'ning as the music rose with light and love divine.

With love divine the song began; there shone a light serene:  
Oh, who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen?

Oh, ne'er could nightingale at dawn salute the rising day  
With sweetness like that bird of song in his immortal lay:

Oh, ne'er were wood-notes heard at eve by banks with poplar shade  
So thrilling as the concert sweet by heavenly harpings made:

For love divine was in each chord, and filled each pause between:  
Oh, who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen?

I roused me at the piercing strain, but shrunk as from the ray  
Of summer lightning; all around so bright the splendor lay.

For oh, it mastered sight and sense, to see that glory shine,  
To hear that minstrel in the clouds, who sang of Love Divine.

To see that form with birdlike wings, of more than mortal mien:  
Oh, who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen?

When once the happy trance was past, that so my sense did bind,  
I left my sheep to Him Whose care was in the western wind;

I left them, for, instead of snow, I trod on blade and flower,  
And ice dissolved in starry rays of morning's gracious hour.

Repeating where on earth the steps of Love Divine had been:  
Oh, who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen?

I hastened to a low-roofed shed, for so the Angel bade;  
And bowed before the lowly rack where Love Divine was laid:

A newborn Babe, like tender Lamb, with Lion's strength there smiled,  
For Lion's strength, immortal might, was in that newborn Child:

That Love Divine in childlike form had God forever been:  
Oh, who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen?

## THE SCIENCE OF SEISMOLOGY

Two hundred years ago this week the man who laid the foundation stones in the science of seismology (the study of earthquakes) was born in colonial Boston. Known by the name of John Winthrop, he became the foremost student of his day in America in astronomical and earthly phenomena. Ever since mankind believed in God, popular opinion was that an earthquake was a direct manifestation of Divine wrath. Mythology attributes earthquakes to underground monsters. The Japanese believed that a monster catfish lay beneath their country, where disturbances are frequent, and often became restless and shook the earth. When the earthquake of November 18, 1755, gently shook the hills of New England, the superstitious citizens became terrified and a Boston minister laid the blame at the door of Benjamin Franklin, suggesting that his newly-invented lightning-rod might have caused the tremor by drawing the electric fluid from the clouds and concentrating it upon New England.

"Earthquakes," he declared to a partly skeptical audience, "are neither objections against the order of Providence nor tokens of God's displeasure, according to the view of superstitious minds, but they are the necessary consequences of general laws." More specifically, he accounted for them as being produced by the expansive action of heat upon vapors contained in underground cavities, and pointed out that earthquakes had occurred at intervals in New England ever since the first settlers landed, but that not a single life had been lost nor had any great damage been done by them.

Today the seismologist sits with his finger literally on the pulse of the earth. With his acutely attuned seismograph at hand, he can feel the slightest tremor of the restless world, which scientists claim passes through contortions of more or less violence at the rate of one every half hour.

During seven recent years Japan alone recorded 8331 quakes, an average of more than 1000 a year.

Basing their experiments upon the crude contrivances of Winthrop, who, during a disturbance, observing bricks flying from a thirty-two-foot chimney of his house to a distance of thirty feet, calculated the speed of their motion at twenty feet per second, seismologists today are able with their delicate instruments to calculate the force and distance of origin to a fraction.

The great Japanese earthquake of 1891 was recorded in neighboring Shanghai; today such a tremor would be recorded accurately all over the civilized world. The Mexican earthquake of 1911 was recorded as far away as Tiflis in the Caucasus Mountains.

Seismologists do not yet hope to be able to control an earthquake, but they have rapidly advanced in the knowledge of where they may reasonably be expected to occur, of the nature of the rocks in which they arise, of the causes that produce them and of the best methods of avoiding their terrors. The ambition of the earthquake student is now to be able to predict an upheaval as certainly as weather is prophesied, so as to give inhabitants an opportunity to flee the doomed spot before disaster overtakes them. Seismologists have discovered that an earthquake never originates at a distance of more than twenty-five miles below the earth's surface.

## MRS. LYDIA COAN WILL CELEBRATE 80TH BIRTHDAY

MRS. LYDIA COAN, ONE OF the veteran kamaaina of Hawaii, will today celebrate her eightieth birthday and tomorrow will be the guest of honor at a reception to be given by the Cousins Society, this event to take place at the Mission House, King street, within the walls of which Mrs. Coan was born and where her first years were passed.

The history of this venerable lady is the history of the missionary work in Hawaii, from the day when the first results were beginning to show.

Mrs. Coan is the daughter of Hiram Bingham the First, the pioneer missionary of Oahu, who came to Honolulu in the brig Thaddeus in 1820. Fourteen years after the landing of Mr. and Mrs. Bingham, their daughter was born, and the advent of this white girl child was an event of the liveliest importance in the grassy village of Honolulu, on the outskirts of which stood the Mission House.

While still a baby, five and a half years old, Mrs. Coan was taken to New England, there to grow up to womanhood. She received her education in New Haven, attending the Yale lectures as a part of her preparation for her life's work, and returned to Honolulu when thirty-one years old, to become the first principal of the Kawaiahaeo Seminary, the fiftieth anniversary of which was recently celebrated. She had several practical trainings as a teacher in the East, having been principal of a seminary on the mainland at nineteen.

In Honolulu she was wed to the Rev. Titus Coan, her home soon afterwards being in Hilo, where she spent ten years. Returning to Honolulu, this has been her home since.

On this, the eightieth anniversary of her birthday, Mrs. Coan will have the sincere congratulations and heartfelt aloha of those many who consider themselves fortunate in being numbered among her friends, congratulations and aloha in which The Advertiser pleases to join.

## THRUM'S ANNUAL MAINTAINS HIGH STANDARD OF YEARS

The forty-first volume of Thrum's Hawaiian Annual for 1915 maintains the high standard of excellence which has marked the preceding volumes. This volume contains 203 pages of valuable information and twenty-six pages of advertising, besides many illustrations.

The book should find its way to the libraries and book shelves of every one who wishes a concise and complete compendium and ready reference to all things Hawaiian.

Rich in Facts  
The statistical portion of the volume prints fifty-five pages of facts and figures, concerning the calendar, eclipses, rainfall and climate, island floral emblems, distances by sea and land, elevations, population and vital statistics, schools, exports and imports, domestic and foreign commerce, insurance business, number of vessels, their value and tonnage, number and nationality of passengers to island ports, annual trade balances, the cost of government, assessed property valuations, taxes by counties, number and nationality of plantation laborers, number and capitalization of Hawaiian corporations, sugar output, and a register and directory.

Legendary and Historical  
The descriptive portion of the volume contains editorial articles by Thomas G. Thrum on the flowering trees of Honolulu; Honolulu sixty years ago; commemoration of a good King, Kamehameha III, Hawaiian pagodas; Honolulu harbor extension plans; world tour for Hawaii's benefit; Umi's necklace war; how Pele located Hawaii; frontage tax; Indian visitors to Hawaii, and retrospect for 1914, a history of Hawaiian progress for the year.

Special articles on topics of local interest are contributed by H. H. Fitch, "Two Great Slights in Honolulu"; "Hawaii at Panama," by A. P. Taylor; "Investigation of Hawaii's Water Sources," by G. K. Larrison; "Hawaii and the Maoreni Genius," by D. L. MacKay; "Science in Our Island Society," by Arthur Johnston; "Wrecks to the Westward," and "The Vanishing Kuleana," by J. M. Lydgate; "Beneficial Insects," by O. H. Swacey, and "Story of King Oia," by A. F. Knudsen.

## MAGOON AND OTHERS SCORE AGAIN IN COURT

J. Alfred Magoon and his co-petitioners have scored another victory in the supreme court in the injunction suit brought by them against the Lord-Young Engineering Company and the superintendent of public works in regard to the reclamation work which was being carried out in Kewalo, this city.

In a memorandum opinion handed down in the supreme court yesterday the court denies the petition of the respondents for a rehearing of the case. "All the grounds set forth in the petitions have been considered and found to be without merits," says the opinion. "The petitions are denied under Rule 5. The concluding paragraph of the opinion was not intended to authorize an injunction against the filling of the streets within the district referred to, nor to restrict the superintendent of public works to a proceeding solely under R. L. Chap. 83, nor to prevent him from proceeding in any other lawful manner. These matters may be adjusted in the decree."